



Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission

“Advocacy, Accountability and Oversight in Action”

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February 12, 2015

Christina R. Ghaly, MD
Director of Health Care Integration
Chief Executive Office
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street, Room 726
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Dr. Ghaly,

Thank you for attending both the Mental Health Commission/SAAC Chair's meeting on February 10, 2015 and the Joint Meeting of the Public Health Commission and Mental Health Commission on February 12, 2015.

Our Commission has historically supported stakeholder participation in all the activities of the Department of Mental Health. In particular, we stress the importance of meaningful mental health consumer involvement. The people served by the Department of Mental Health, both individually and through their client organizations, are very important stakeholders and must be involved in all planning processes. Our Commission has and will continue to participate in the planning process outlined in your plan to develop a Los Angeles County Health Agency.

However to ensure that their input is considered and to fulfill our statutory obligations to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of any planning process, representatives of the Mental Health and Public Health Commission **should be included** in the preparation of the plan to the Board of Supervisors, **working directly and along with** the Interim Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel, the Director of Personnel and the Sheriff, Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, Public Health and Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures named in the Motion.

Mental Health Commissioner Lawrence Lue shared his discussion with you after the Tuesday, February 10 monthly meeting of the Mental Health Commission and the Service Area Advisory Committees (SAAC) Chairs. I am attaching a copy of the Statement of the Proceedings for the January 13, 2015 regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors which includes the amended Board motion.

Supervisor Don Knabe proposed the amendment to include the Los Angeles Mental Health and Public Health Commission's input. This amendment is incorporated in the last sentence of the motion. It reads as follows "In addition, the Interim Chief Executive Officer was instructed to establish a stakeholder/public participation process, including the Los Angeles County Mental Health and Public Health Commissions, to ensure that their input is considered in this report."

In the January 23, 2015 Mental Health Commission letter to the Board of Supervisors, our Commission stressed the importance that we hold in performing our duties and responsibilities as outlined in the California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5604.2.4 which states that the Commission shall **"Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process."** This was also included in our written testimony submitted at the January 13, 2015 Board hearing.

Commissioner Lue has played an integral role in the preparation of oral and written testimony by the Mental Health Commission at the January 13, 2015 Board hearing, the January 23, 2015 Mental Health Commission letter to the Board of Supervisors, and in other activities related to the Board motion. Because of the close collaboration among the members of the Mental Health Commission Executive Committee and other Commissioners including Lawrence Lue, we have a clear consensus on matters related to the January 13, 2015 Board motion.

We count on your cooperation and support to enable us to fulfill our roles, responsibilities and obligations both with respect the Amended Board Motion and the California Welfare and Institutions Code. Please advise how we can be more engaged and involved working together to further develop, implement and review the stakeholder/ public participation process and in the preparation of the draft report to the Board.

Sincerely,



Larry Gasco, Ph.D., Chair
Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission

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Attachments

- January 13, 2015 Statement of Proceedings/Amended motion – Board of Supervisors
- January 13, 2015 Mental Health Commission letter to Board of Supervisors
Motion Regarding the Consolidation of the Departments of Mental Health,
Public Health and Health Services
- January 23, 2015 Mental Health Commission Response to
Los Angeles Health Agency Integration

c: Board of Supervisors
Mental Health Commission
Public Health Commission
Marvin Southard, DSW, Director
Service Area Advisory Committee Chairs